ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

April 1991

1990:

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH STRONGER THAN PREDICTED

BENCHMARK REVISIONS

EMPLOYMENT GAINS CONTINUE

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

ALASKA ECONOMIC
TRENDS

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Alaska State Employment Service

JOB SERVICE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

maintaining the foundation of economic security

Cover design by Jim Fowler

MADE IN ALASKA

1990: Employment Growth Stronger Than Predicted

by John Boucher, Neal Fried, Brian Rae, Holly Stinson

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Predictions abounded on Alaska's economy as 1989 ended and the new decade began. Most economists believed that the state would not sustain the 6.2% employment growth rate of 1989, boosted by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill activity. Almost across the board for all sectors of the economy, however, employment growth was expected to continue, although at a much slower pace. In view of how strong the year's employment growth actually was, the 1.8% growth forecast in the May 1990 issue of *Alaska Economic Trends* now seems quite conservative.

Ten Thousand More Jobs In 1990

Led by strong performances in the mining and construction industries, statewide nonagricultural wage and salary employment grew by 10,100 jobs in 1990, for a growth rate of 4.4%. (See Table 1.) More remarkable is that if the oil spill's effect on the economy is discounted, 1990 was as good a year as 1989 in terms of employment growth.

From 1988 to 1989 the Alaskan economy added 13,400 jobs-which translates into a growth rate of 6.3%. If the jobs with the prime oil spill contractors are ignored, however, the growth picture looks different.

In 1989 about 2,500 jobs (on an annual average basis) were directly created by the cleanup. (For a detailed analysis of 1989, see the April 1990 *Trends*.) In 1990 that number dropped to about 250. If oil spill cleanup workers are factored out, employment growth in 1989 was 5.1%, and employment growth in 1990 was 5.5%. This ignores any indirect jobs that were created during 1989 or 1990. Examples of these jobs would be food service workers who fed the cleanup crews, or extra retail trade jobs created as cleanup workers spent their wages. But it is safe to say that the indirect effects on employment were greater in 1989 than they were in 1990. Fewer

Table • 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work — Alaska

	1989 Annual Avg.	1990 Annual Avg.	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	227,100	237,200	10,100	4.4%
Goods-producing	35,700	38,700	3,000	8.4
Mining	10,200	11,500	1,300	12.7
Construction	9,800	10,500	700	7.1
Manufacturing	15,700	16,700	1,000	6.4
Durable Goods	3,800	3,800	0	0.0
Lumber & Wood Products	2,900	3,000	100	3.4
Nondurable Goods	11,900	12,800	900	7.6
Seafood Processing	8,300	9,100	800	9.6
Pulp Mills	900	900	0	0.0
Service-producing	191,400	198,500	7,100	3.7
Transportation	21,200	20,500	-700	-3.3
Trucking & Warehousing	2,400	2,600	200	8.3
Water Transportation	1,400	1,400	0	0.0
Air Transportation	6,200	6,600	400	6.5
Communications	3,200	3,300	100	3.1
Trade	44,200	46,100	1,900	4.3
Wholesale Trade	7,900	8,200	300	3.8
Retail Trade	36,300	37,900	1,600	4.4
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	5,400	5,800	400	7.4
Food Stores	6,400	6,600	200	3.1
Eating & Drinking Places	13,000	13,200	200	1.5
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	10,300	10,300	0	0.0
Services & Misc.	46,900	50,900	4,000	8.5
Hotels & Lodging Places	5,000	5,500	500	10.0
Government	68,800	70,800	2,000	2.9
Federal	18,200	18,700	500	2.7
State	20,700	21,400	700	3.4
Local	29,900	30,700	800	2.7

Notes: Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark: March 1990
Subtotals may not add due to rounding.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

support personnel were needed, and the accumulation of wealth that workers earned on the spill was gradually depleted as 1990 progressed.

Resurgent Mining, Construction Industries Led the Way

Buoyed by continued high oil prices and a favorable climate for mineral development, mining was Alaska's fastest growing industry in 1990. Nearly 1,300 additional mining jobs were available in 1990. Alaska's construction industry was not far behind. There was a crucial relationship between Alaska's construction employment and the oil and gas industry during the past year. Large projects like refurbishing the Trans-Alaska pipeline and building gas-handling facilities on the North Slope were instrumental in construction employment growth.

Alaska's seafood processing industry enjoyed a strong year for employment growth, posting a gain of 800 jobs. Continued success in the bottomfishery in Southwest Alaska was one reason, but the most important factor was bringing back into full production seafood processors in the Gulf Coast region of Alaska. During 1989 these seafood processors were severely limited in their processing capability due to the oil spill.

The transportation industry was down in comparison to 1989; however, that could have been expected because transportation was where most of the oil spill cleanup jobs were counted. Upon closer examination, 1990 was a good year for the transportation industry. Most sectors within the industry had more employment in 1990 than 1989. The air transportation sector provided some strong employment growth which helped offset the losses that occurred because of the oil spill. Expansion of staff at Alyeska Pipeline Service Company also added employment to the transportation industry in 1990.

Firefighters, Census, Education Boosted Government Employment

Unusual circumstances and a growing school-age population were the primary reasons for government employment growth in 1990. The 1990 census was the cause of most of the federal employment growth in 1990. State government employment also grew, and a good portion of that was attributable to the unusually large number of firefighters brought on during the summer. At the local level, governments throughout the state were scrambling to respond to increased school enrollments. The result was that education-related employment helped boost local government employment.

Unemployment Remained Low

Although unemployment increased marginally, 1990 was another good year for Alaskan job seekers. Early in the year a pattern was established in the statewide unemployment rate that characterized the labor force throughout 1990. The unemployment rate was consistently above 1989 levels but well below historical levels. The annual unemployment rate ended the year at 7.0%, the second lowest unemployment rate since 1978.

Anchorage Added 6,000 Jobs in 1990

Anchorage's economy generated more than 6,000 new wage and salary jobs in 1990-or 60% of the new jobs in the entire state. (See Table 2.) This is a 5.7% increase in employment, making 1990 Anchorage's best year in the last five and comparable to 1983. (See Figure 1.)

After two strong years of employment growth, Anchorage is well on the way to a full recovery. If 1991 is equally good to Anchorage, the city will surpass 1985's employment peak of 114,500. The best feature of Anchorage's vigorous growth is that it cannot be attributed to any one single project or industry. Instead, Anchorage's economic growth cut across most industries in 1990.

Why did Anchorage's economy grow so much? There are many reasons. Oil prices and oil revenues remained healthy. This kept the local oil industry and Anchorage's public sector in good shape. Anchorage enjoyed another good year of tourism and a record year for conventions. Even the federal sector contributed to Anchorage's growth in 1990. The U.S. Census Bureau's headquarters for the 1990 census was located in Anchorage; therefore, a large percentage of the total work force hired to conduct the 1990 population count ended up in Anchorage. The strong rebound in real estate prices in 1990 meant the negative equity positions of many individuals and businesses improved, freeing up capital for other pursuits.

As the commercial, financial and transportation center of the state, Anchorage benefitted from increased economic activity in other regions of Alaska. (See Table 2.) Personal income grew statewide, which meant residents throughout Alaska bought more goods and services from Anchorage. Since some of Anchorage's labor force work elsewhere in the state, other regions' prosperity often translates into paychecks for Anchorage residents. Suffice it to say, what is good for Alaska's economy is good for Anchorage.

The Service Industry Was Anchorage's Star Performer Again In 1990

Once again, Anchorage's largest industry generated the highest number of jobs-2,450. Because services is such a broadly defined industry, no single explanation for its strength is sufficient. Engineering services grew in concert with the increase in construction activity, like the pipeline repair work and oil industry projects on the North Slope. Business services' expansion was a reaction to the overall increase in economic activity. Medical services' growth was fueled by population increases in Anchorage as well as statewide. For example, Anchorage's population grew by 4,500 residents in 1990. Hotel and motel growth indicated a healthy tourism season and more business-related use.

Federal Express Kept Transportation Numbers High

The full impact of Federal Express employment was not apparent in 1989 because they operated fully staffed only during the last half of the year. An entire year of a fully staffed Federal Express helped boost Anchorage's 1990 air transportation employment by nearly 200 jobs. United Parcel Service (UPS) landed an important U.S.-Japan route in 1990; as a result, they expanded their staff in Anchorage.

Not all the news on the air transportation front was favorable. International passenger airlines kept deserting Anchorage. The longer reach of new passenger jets and use of the Asia-Europe route over the Soviet Union were the reasons. From an air transportation employment standpoint, however, the increase by Federal Express and UPS has thus far outweighed the jobs lost due to fewer international passenger flights.

New Housing Permits Doubled In 1990

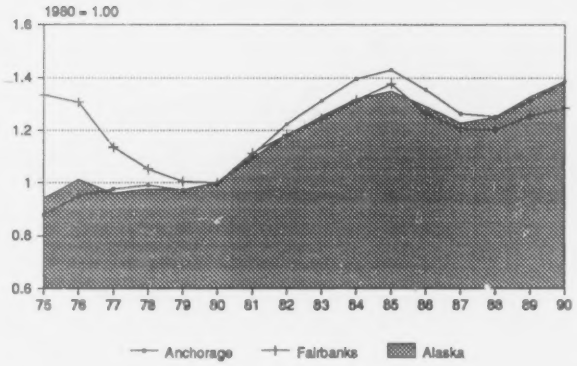
The fastest growing industry in Anchorage during 1990 was construction, which grew at a 17.3% clip. (See Table 2.) According to the Municipality of Anchorage, the value of 1990 construction projects was $67 million above 1989 levels. Most of the increase was in single family housing permits, which nearly doubled from 198 in 1989 to 395 in 1990. There was also an increase in commercial construction activity, although alterations to existing buildings, rather than construction of new ones, made up the bulk of activity.

A sizable portion of Anchorage's construction employment represents activity taking place elsewhere. Many construction firms have their headquarters in Anchorage but their work takes

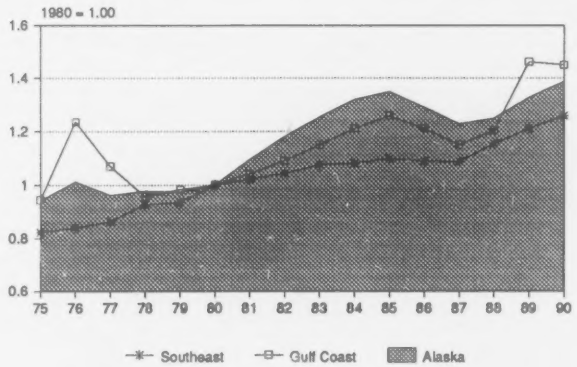
Figure • 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Index 1975-1990

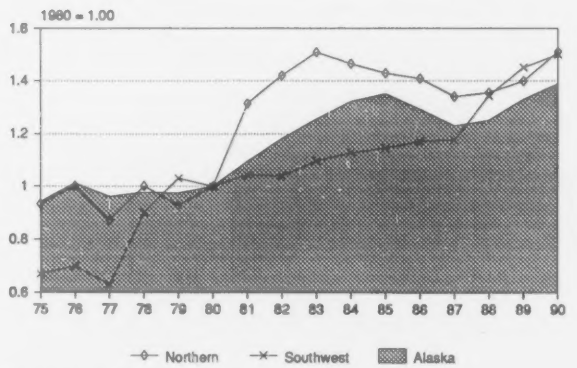
Anchorage - Fairbanks - Alaska



Southeast - Gulf Coast - Alaska



Northern - Southwest - Alaska



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Wage and Salary Employment Change by Area 1989-1990

Municipality of Anchorage

	1989	1990	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	105,000	111,000	6,000	5.7%
Goods-producing	10,600	11,900	1,300	12.3
Mining	3,550	3,850	300	8.5
Construction	4,900	5,750	850	17.3
Manufacturing	2,150	2,300	150	7.0
Service-producing	94,400	99,100	4,700	5.0
Transportation	10,100	11,000	900	8.9
Trucking & Warehousing	1,400	1,550	150	10.7
Water Transportation	300	300	0	0.0
Air Transportation	3,750	4,100	350	9.3
Communications	1,800	1,900	100	5.6
Trade	25,400	26,100	700	2.8
Wholesale Trade	5,900	5,850	-50	-0.8
Retail Trade	19,500	20,200	700	3.6
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	2,750	3,100	350	12.7
Food Stores	3,050	3,200	150	4.9
Eating & Drinking Places	7,650	7,650	0	0.0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,700	6,450	-250	-3.7
Services & Misc.	26,300	28,750	2,450	9.3
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,250	2,450	200	8.9
Government	25,900	26,850	950	3.7
Federal	10,200	10,450	250	2.5
State	7,250	7,700	450	6.2
Local	8,450	8,650	200	2.4

Fairbanks North Star Borough

	1989	1990	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	26,600	27,250	650	2.4%
Goods-producing	2,450	2,300	-150	-6.1
Mining	150	150	0	0.0
Construction	1,750	1,550	-200	-11.4
Manufacturing	550	600	50	9.1
Service-producing	24,150	24,950	800	3.3
Transportation	1,900	2,000	100	5.3
Trucking & Warehousing	450	500	50	11.1
Air Transportation	350	450	100	28.6
Communications	300	300	0	0.0
Trade	5,800	5,950	150	2.6
Wholesale Trade	700	750	50	7.1
Retail Trade	5,100	5,200	100	2.0
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	650	600	-50	-7.7
Food Stores	750	800	50	6.7
Eating & Drinking Places	2,000	2,050	50	2.5
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	800	800	0	0.0
Services & Misc.	5,950	6,200	250	4.2
Government	9,700	10,000	300	3.1
Federal	3,100	3,100	0	0.0
State	4,000	4,200	200	5.0
Local	2,600	2,700	100	3.8

Northern Region

	1989	1990	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	13,550	14,650	1,100	8.1%
Goods-producing	5,500	6,150	650	11.8
Mining	5,100	5,700	600	11.8
Service-producing	8,050	8,450	400	5.0
Government	4,300	4,350	50	1.2
Federal	300	300	0	0.0
State	350	350	0	0.0
Local	3,650	3,700	50	1.4

Southwest Region

	1989	1990	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,750	15,250	500	3.4%
Goods-producing	4,250	4,400	150	3.5
Seafood Processing	3,900	4,050	150	3.8
Service-producing	10,500	10,800	300	2.9
Government	6,150	6,200	50	0.8
Federal	1,350	1,300	-50	-3.7
State	550	550	0	0.0
Local	4,300	4,350	50	1.2

Gulf Coast Region

	1989	1990	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	24,150	23,950	-200	-0.8%
Goods-producing	5,700	6,650	950	16.7
Mining	900	1,200	300	33.3
Construction	1,100	1,050	-50	-4.5
Manufacturing	3,700	4,400	700	18.9
Seafood Processing	2,750	3,450	700	25.5
Service-producing	18,450	17,300	-1,150	-6.2
Transportation	3,950	1,950	-2,000	-50.6
Trade	3,750	4,050	300	8.0
Wholesale Trade	550	500	-50	-9.1
Retail Trade	3,250	3,550	300	9.2
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	550	600	50	9.1
Services & Misc.	4,250	4,550	300	7.1
Government	5,950	6,150	200	3.4
Federal	550	600	50	9.1
State	1,900	1,900	0	0.0
Local	3,500	3,600	100	2.9

Southeast Region

	1989	1990	Change	Percent Change
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	32,350	33,700	1,350	4.2%
Goods-producing	6,550	6,500	-50	-0.8
Mining	300	350	50	16.7
Construction	1,100	1,150	50	4.5
Manufacturing	5,150	5,050	-100	-1.9
Durable Goods	2,700	2,650	-50	-1.9
Lumber & Wood Products	2,550	2,550	0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	2,450	2,400	-50	-2.0
Seafood Processing	1,350	1,350	0	0.0
Pulp Mills	950	900	-50	-5.3
Service-producing	25,850	27,200	1,350	5.2
Transportation	2,450	2,650	200	8.2
Trade	5,200	5,400	200	3.8
Wholesale Trade	550	600	50	9.1
Retail Trade	4,650	4,850	200	4.3
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,050	1,050	0	0.0
Services & Misc.	5,150	5,650	500	9.7
Government	12,000	12,400	400	3.3
Federal	2,050	2,150	100	4.9
State	5,450	5,550	100	1.8
Local	4,500	4,650	150	3.3

Benchmark: March 1990

Subtotals may not add due to rounding. The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section

place all over the state. Therefore, some of this employment activity is counted in Anchorage even though it takes place elsewhere.

A Good Job Market

Last year was a dynamic period for Anchorage's job market. One reason was the creation of thousands of new jobs. Another was that in an expanding economy, current job-holders often seek new employment opportunities and promotions occur. This in turn creates new job opportunities for first time job seekers or for others looking for a new job. The 11% increase in help wanted inches in Anchorage's two newspapers and an annual unemployment rate of 5.2%, the second lowest in the decade, confirmed the positive employment picture.

A Modest Year for Growth in Fairbanks

While Anchorage's economy heated up, Fairbanks' growth slowed from 1989's pace. Still, Fairbanks posted an employment gain of 2.4% in 1990, or 650 jobs. All industries except construction added jobs during the year.

Although Fairbanks construction declined by 200 jobs, Fairbanks still had a considerable amount of construction activity during 1990. Military construction declined only slightly from 1989 ($100 million in 1989 vs. $90 million in 1990). Meanwhile, the state's highway construction budget for Fairbanks almost doubled in 1990, and Fairbanks was the headquarters for some of the work on the Trans-Alaska pipeline repair project.

Several sectors of Fairbanks' economy reflected the area's increasing population. Some of the area's population gain is a result of a growing military population at Ft. Wainwright, where the number of military and their families has almost doubled in five years. Trade, services and real estate were all beneficiaries of this trend. Fairbanks' housing market tightened in 1990, with average asking prices for houses going up and apartment vacancy rates coming down.

Retail trade employment grew in spite of Nordstrom's closing its Fairbanks retail store in January. Confirmation of a healthy retail market was provided by plans for new stores in Fairbanks. One retailer, Fred Meyer, began construction of a second store in 1990 and another, Carr's Quality Centers, announced plans to build a second store in Fairbanks.

The transportation sector expanded in 1990. MarkAir relocated its maintenance operations to Fairbanks and Lufthansa Airlines moved its Alaska base from Anchorage to Fairbanks. Jobs in air transportation alone increased more than 28%.

In the public sector, the increase in local government employment was entirely in education. Fairbanks schools were full last fall, with enrollment well above projections. While the total number of federal jobs did not change, an increase in State government was due to more jobs at the University of Alaska and an unusually large number of temporary firefighting jobs. The Interior suffered through the biggest fire season in more than 20 years in the summer of 1990.

Although mining employment stagnated in Fairbanks, exploration activity escalated in the region and the Interior posted job growth in this industry. Fairbanks Gold revised their estimate of the gold deposit at their Fort Knox property upwards by half. They are currently seeking a partner or buyer to develop the mine, which has a potential gold reserve of six million ounces.

Mining Put Northern Region in Top Growth Spot

In contrast to Fairbanks, mining employment in the Northern region was anything but stagnant in 1990. The industry added 600 jobs on an annual average basis, with many more existing during the peak summer months. The Northern region led the state in growth rates, showing an 8.5% increase in 1990.

Several factors are behind the mining gain. On the oil and gas side, production at Prudhoe Bay is becoming more labor intensive as the giant oil field declines. Construction of a gas-handling facility to increase production at Prudhoe Bay also boosted employment in the mining and construction industries. As this facility, named GHX-1, neared completion late in 1990, ARCO Alaska announced plans to build GHX-2. This second facility is a billion dollar project and should keep employment levels up.

Also on the North Slope, BP Exploration announced reinstatement of their project to develop the Hurl State oilfield. BP shelved this project when it was only 10% complete, but 1990's oil prices were high enough (even before the August jump) to justify continuation. While the above projects were all good news for the oil industry, ARCO Alaska and BP Exploration announced a consolidation of some of their Prudhoe Bay operations, which could mean a loss of at least 100 jobs.

In the Nome area, hard rock mining is the source of mining jobs. Nome ranked as the top-producing gold district in the state for the fourth year in

a row in 1990. In addition, much exploratory work took place in 1990. A blow was dealt Nome, however, when WestGold decided to permanently shut down their large gold dredge in October. With other regions experiencing growth in gold production and the departure of WestGold's dredge, Nome will likely lose its position in gold production.

In the Northwest Arctic Borough, the new Red Dog lead and zinc mine became fully operational in 1990, with the first shipment of zinc ore in August. Jointly operated by the regional Native corporation, NANA, and Cominco Mining Co., the mine means 300+ jobs, many of them filled by residents of the area. With an anticipated life of 50 years, these jobs should remain in the region for a long time to come. Production at Red Dog, along with the new Greens Creek mine near Juneau, accounted for a doubling of Alaska's value of mineral production in 1990.

Gulf Coast Employment Declined from 1989 Boom

The Gulf Coast was the only region in the state to show an employment decline in 1990. A glance at Tables 9 and 10 in the following article on the annual benchmark revision confirms that spill cleanup was what made the comparison with 1989 negative. During the first quarter of 1990 growth rates were at 10-13% compared to employment in the first quarter of 1989—before the *Exxon Valdez* spill happened. A comparison between 1988 and 1990 puts the region's growth at 20%.

While substantially fewer cleanup jobs existed in 1990, the big question was how the spill would affect the fishing and tourist industries. Tourism is not the mainstay of the Kodiak economy and the majority of visitors to the Kenai Peninsula are from within the state (mostly Anchorage and the southcentral region). Catering to visitors from outside the state, however, is big business in Valdez and for many small operators, such as fishing lodges, scattered throughout the region.

The tourism industry is not a standard industry employment category though, so gauging the tourist season is difficult. Tourism-related employment is spread among the transportation, retail trade, and services groups. One measure used in many coastal communities is the number of cruise ships that docked that year. In Valdez that number fell in 1990. Businesses were concerned that the publicity of 1989 would hurt them, others were confident it would only help. Anecdotal evidence points to a mixed season—some businesses had a better year, some did not.

The fishing industry is easier to measure—by counting the volume or value of fish harvested, or by number of jobs processing those fish. In 1990, Alaska's salmon harvest was an all-time record. Prince William Sound had a record run of pink salmon and Kodiak enjoyed a record harvest of red salmon. Kodiak's pink salmon catch, however, was less than half of what had been projected. Cook Inlet also saw a weak pink run.

Employment in seafood processing increased 25%—not surprising following a year which had fewer jobs than usual. Other industries exhibiting strong growth were trade and services which gained 300 jobs each. These gains are on top of large increases during 1989, when many employers were swamped with more business than usual.

Other bright spots in the Gulf Coast in 1990 were the new exploratory projects for oil and gas in Cook Inlet, and the sawmill in Seward becoming fully operational.

Southwest Region Continued Bottomfish Boom

The underpinning of economic growth in the Southwest region is the fishing industry. Last year saw a continued expansion of seafood processing facilities in the Aleutian Islands. All this activity is taking place because of the groundfish harvest. Three firms expanded their plants in Unalaska to take advantage of the demand for surimi and fish meal. The Pribilof Island communities of St. George and St. Paul were both busy constructing new harbors in order to capture some of the bottomfishing business.

Total groundfish catch (in all areas of Alaska) was 38% above 1989, with pollock making up three-fourths of the harvest. An indication that the harvest is at maximum levels occurred this past October. For the first time, harvesters reached the annual quota before the year ended in the Bering Sea and Aleutian regions.

Harvesters in Bristol Bay had the second best season ever for red salmon. The only larger harvest occurred in the last century. Even though prices were half those paid just two years ago, the size of the harvest allowed for a record value of $200 million. The area also saw a resurgence of red king crab; in 1990 the best catch was made since the pre-crash year of 1981.

Support for a burgeoning fishing industry translated into growth in other sectors of Southwest's economy. Although not reported separately in the Southwest region employment tables, jobs with the region's trade and transportation sectors accounted for half of total growth in 1990.

Southeast: Another Year of Slow, Steady Growth

Southeast Alaska continues to be the most stable region in the state in terms of employment, largely ignoring the booms and busts which have affected most other regions over the last 15 years. (See Figure 1.) This trend continued in 1990, as employment growth moderated from a relatively high 4.9% between 1988 and 1989 to 4.2% between 1989 and 1990. (See Table 2.)

The slowdown in employment growth was experienced in every industry in Southeast except for one, services, which continued a rapid expansion. The slowdown was fairly evenly distributed throughout the other industries. This meant the service-producing industries led in percentage employment gains for the region for the second straight year. Service-producing industries created 1,350 jobs in Southeast in 1990, a 5.2% rise in employment over the year. Only finance-insurance and real estate (FIRE) showed no growth, while all other major industries provided at least 200 new jobs during the year.

Stagnant or declining employment in the region's major manufacturing industries, seafood processing and wood products, more than offset the slight employment gains in mining and construction. In total, the goods-producing industries posted a slight decline over the year. The region's timber industry began the year with concerns about the Tongass Timber Reform Act then being hammered out in Congress. However, very little if any of the decline in wood products employment in 1990 occurred because of this legislation. Instead, after a strong first half of the year, a weakening market and inclement weather conspired to force down employment in the latter half of 1990.

Summary: '90 Another Good Year for Alaska's Economy

In 1990 Alaska posted a 4.4% employment growth rate and the 7.0% unemployment rate was the second lowest since 1978. This performance was surprisingly strong given expectations of a letdown following the oil spill in 1989. Anchorage and Northern Alaska led the way in terms of regional growth. In terms of industry employment growth, mining, services and construction added jobs at the fastest rate. Overall, 1990 was another stellar year for the Alaskan economy.

On the Annual Benchmark Revision

By John Boucher

Employment Data Revised for Last 24 Months

In January of every year, nonagricultural wage and salary employment estimates are revised by a procedure referred to as **benchmarking**. The 1990 benchmark, which revised the employment estimates for all of 1989 and 1990, was just completed and the revised estimates are published on the following pages.

Monthly Job Estimates Based On a Sample of Employers

The monthly employment estimates published in this magazine are based on a sample of employers. Current monthly employment is estimated using employment information from approximately 1,400 of Alaska's 15,600 firms. While less than 10% of Alaska's employers are in the U.S. Department of Labor's Current Employment Statistics (CES) program sample, a much larger percentage of total employment is represented. For example, the firms sampled in June of 1990 included 115,100 of a total nonagricultural wage and salary employment of 252,700. These firms voluntarily participate in the CES program. The firms' data allow Alaska Department of Labor economists to produce reliable and timely estimates on both the direction and the magnitude of

(continued on page 10)

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Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work 1989 & 1990

Alaska 1989

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	202,200	207,200	211,400	219,100	229,300	241,700	248,200	249,700	243,000	230,400	223,000	220,300	227,100
Goods-producing	26,500	28,200	30,300	32,800	36,300	41,700	47,300	46,200	40,400	36,800	32,600	29,500	35,700
Mining	9,200	9,500	9,700	9,700	9,900	10,400	10,800	11,100	10,800	10,900	10,700	10,200	10,200
Construction	6,600	6,600	7,100	8,300	10,000	11,600	11,900	12,500	12,600	11,800	10,000	8,600	9,800
Manufacturing	10,700	12,100	13,500	14,800	16,400	19,700	24,600	22,600	17,000	14,100	11,900	10,700	15,700
Durable Goods	2,100	2,400	3,100	3,500	4,200	4,500	4,500	4,700	4,600	4,400	4,000	3,100	3,800
Lumber & Wood Products	1,500	1,800	2,400	2,700	3,300	3,600	3,600	3,700	3,600	3,500	3,200	2,400	2,900
Nondurable Goods	8,600	9,700	10,400	11,300	12,200	15,200	20,100	17,900	12,400	9,700	7,900	7,600	11,900
Seafood Processing	5,100	6,100	6,800	7,700	8,500	11,300	16,200	14,100	8,700	6,200	4,300	4,000	8,300
Pulp Mills	900	900	900	900	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	900	900	900	900	900
Service-producing	175,700	179,000	181,100	186,300	193,000	200,000	200,900	203,500	202,600	193,600	190,400	190,800	191,400
Transportation	16,300	16,400	16,700	19,000	22,200	24,900	27,000	27,400	25,000	20,700	19,200	19,100	21,200
Trucking & Warehousing	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,200	2,400	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,400	2,400	2,500	2,400
Water Transportation	800	1,000	1,000	1,100	1,400	1,700	1,900	1,900	1,800	1,400	1,200	1,200	1,400
Air Transportation	5,400	5,500	5,500	5,600	6,000	6,500	6,900	7,000	6,800	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,200
Communications	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,300	3,300	3,300	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
Trade	40,200	40,200	41,100	42,300	44,500	46,900	47,300	47,400	46,400	44,800	44,600	44,800	44,200
Wholesale Trade	7,200	7,200	7,300	7,600	8,000	8,400	8,500	8,500	8,300	8,100	8,000	8,000	7,900
Retail Trade	33,000	33,000	33,800	34,700	36,500	38,500	38,800	38,900	38,100	36,700	36,600	36,800	36,300
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	4,900	4,800	4,900	5,000	5,300	5,400	5,400	5,500	5,500	5,500	6,000	6,200	5,400
Food Stores	6,000	5,900	6,200	6,300	6,400	6,700	6,900	6,900	6,900	6,400	6,200	6,200	6,400
Eating & Drinking Places	11,600	11,800	12,000	12,400	13,200	14,300	14,300	14,300	13,900	13,100	12,700	12,500	13,000
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	10,400	10,400	10,300	10,300	10,300	10,600	10,200	10,400	10,400	10,300	10,300	10,200	10,300
Services & Misc.	42,700	43,500	43,800	45,000	47,100	49,800	50,400	50,900	49,700	47,100	46,600	46,600	46,900
Hotels & Lodging Places	3,900	4,000	4,200	4,400	4,900	6,200	6,700	6,400	5,800	4,700	4,400	4,500	5,000
Government	66,100	68,500	69,200	69,700	68,900	67,800	66,000	67,400	71,100	70,700	69,700	70,100	68,800
Federal	17,500	17,500	17,700	17,700	18,100	18,800	18,900	19,100	18,800	18,200	17,900	18,500	18,200
State	19,000	20,700	20,800	21,100	19,900	20,100	20,200	20,200	22,100	21,700	21,200	21,100	20,700
Local	29,600	30,300	30,700	30,900	30,900	28,900	26,900	28,100	30,200	30,800	30,600	30,500	29,900

Alaska 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	214,100	220,600	225,600	232,700	240,700	252,700	256,900	256,200	249,200	238,300	231,100	228,200	237,200
Goods-producing	28,500	30,800	33,200	37,200	40,000	46,000	51,400	49,700	43,000	38,500	34,200	31,400	38,700
Mining	9,900	10,300	10,400	10,700	11,200	12,300	12,700	13,100	12,500	11,900	11,700	11,100	11,500
Construction	7,200	7,400	8,200	9,300	10,500	12,700	13,000	13,400	13,000	12,100	10,300	9,000	10,500
Manufacturing	11,400	13,100	14,600	17,200	18,300	21,000	25,700	23,200	17,500	14,500	12,200	11,300	16,700
Durable Goods	2,400	2,600	3,300	4,100	4,400	4,700	4,800	4,800	4,600	4,200	3,400	2,600	3,800
Lumber & Wood Products	1,800	1,900	2,600	3,300	3,500	3,700	3,800	3,900	3,600	3,300	2,700	1,900	3,000
Nondurable Goods	9,000	10,500	11,300	13,100	13,900	16,300	20,900	18,400	12,900	10,300	8,800	8,700	12,800
Seafood Processing	5,500	6,900	7,700	9,400	10,100	12,400	16,900	14,500	9,100	6,500	5,000	4,900	9,100
Pulp Mills	900	900	900	900	900	900	900	1,000	900	900	900	900	900
Service-producing	185,600	189,800	192,400	195,500	200,700	206,700	205,500	206,500	206,200	199,800	196,900	196,800	198,500
Transportation	18,100	18,400	18,800	19,200	20,600	22,400	22,600	23,000	22,300	20,700	20,000	19,700	20,500
Trucking & Warehousing	2,200	2,300	2,500	2,400	2,600	2,800	2,800	3,000	2,700	2,600	2,500	2,600	2,600
Water Transportation	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,500	1,700	1,900	1,900	1,600	1,400	1,200	1,100	1,400
Air Transportation	6,000	6,000	6,100	6,300	6,600	7,100	7,300	7,200	7,100	6,500	6,400	6,300	6,600
Communications	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,300	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,300
Trade	42,600	42,500	43,100	44,300	46,600	48,600	48,900	49,300	48,200	46,600	46,100	46,400	46,100
Wholesale Trade	7,500	7,600	7,700	7,900	8,200	8,500	8,600	8,600	8,600	8,400	8,200	8,200	8,200
Retail Trade	35,100	34,900	35,400	36,400	38,400	40,100	40,300	40,700	39,600	38,200	37,900	38,200	37,900
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	5,500	5,300	5,300	5,400	5,600	6,100	6,000	6,200	6,000	5,900	6,300	6,400	5,800
Food Stores	6,200	6,200	6,200	6,400	6,700	6,800	6,800	7,200	7,100	6,700	6,400	6,600	6,600
Eating & Drinking Places	12,000	12,000	12,300	12,800	13,800	14,400	14,500	14,400	13,900	13,200	12,800	12,700	13,200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	10,000	10,000	10,100	10,100	10,400	10,500	10,400	10,500	10,300	10,300	10,200	10,200	10,300
Services & Misc.	46,700	47,900	48,600	49,400	51,400	54,300	54,700	54,500	53,100	50,400	49,700	49,700	50,900
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,300	4,400	4,500	4,800	5,300	6,900	7,200	7,200	6,400	5,200	4,800	4,800	5,500
Government	68,200	71,000	71,800	72,500	71,700	70,900	68,900	69,200	72,300	71,800	70,900	70,800	70,800
Federal	18,100	18,200	18,500	18,700	19,000	19,500	19,600	19,200	19,200	18,300	18,000	18,100	18,700
State	19,700	21,600	21,800	21,900	20,800	21,500	21,500	21,300	22,000	21,700	21,600	21,300	21,400
Local	30,400	31,200	31,500	31,900	31,900	29,900	27,800	28,700	31,100	31,800	31,300	31,400	30,700

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1990.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work 1989 & 1990

Southeast Region 1989

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	27,650	28,500	29,500	31,300	32,650	34,350	35,600	36,650	35,600	33,300	32,150	31,100	32,350
Goods-producing	4,000	4,300	5,100	6,350	6,750	7,600	8,500	9,200	7,900	7,100	6,350	5,300	6,550
Mining	250	250	250	250	300	300	350	350	350	300	300	300	300
Construction	700	700	850	1,050	1,100	1,200	1,250	1,350	1,350	1,300	1,150	1,000	1,100
Manufacturing	3,050	3,350	4,000	5,050	5,350	6,100	6,900	7,500	6,200	4,500	4,900	4,000	5,150
Durable Goods	1,400	1,700	2,350	2,600	3,050	3,250	3,200	3,350	3,300	3,200	2,950	2,200	2,700
Lumber & Wood Products	1,250	1,550	2,200	2,400	2,900	3,100	3,050	3,200	3,200	3,100	2,800	2,050	2,550
Nondurable Goods	1,650	1,650	1,650	2,450	2,300	2,850	3,700	4,150	2,900	2,300	1,950	1,800	2,450
Seafood Processing	600	550	600	1,350	1,150	1,650	2,550	3,000	1,800	1,250	900	650	1,350
Pulp Mills	900	900	900	900	950	1,000	950	1,000	950	900	900	950	950
Service-producing	23,650	24,200	24,400	24,950	25,900	26,750	27,100	27,450	27,700	26,200	25,800	25,800	25,850
Transportation	1,900	2,000	2,050	2,050	2,350	2,750	3,000	3,000	2,950	2,450	2,400	2,300	2,450
Trade	4,600	4,650	4,700	4,850	5,250	5,650	5,800	5,800	5,550	5,200	5,150	5,200	5,200
Wholesale Trade	450	450	450	500	600	600	600	600	550	600	600	600	550
Retail Trade	4,150	4,200	4,250	4,350	4,650	5,050	5,200	5,200	5,000	4,600	4,550	4,600	4,650
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	950	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,100	1,050	1,000	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,050	1,050
Services & Misc.	4,600	4,700	4,750	4,900	5,150	5,450	5,600	5,650	5,600	5,250	5,100	5,200	5,150
Government	11,600	11,850	11,900	12,100	12,050	11,850	11,700	11,950	12,500	12,200	12,050	12,050	12,000
Federal	1,850	1,850	1,900	1,950	2,050	2,200	2,250	2,250	2,250	2,050	2,000	2,100	2,050
State	5,300	5,450	5,450	5,500	5,400	5,450	5,350	5,400	5,650	5,550	5,450	5,350	5,450
Local	4,450	4,550	4,550	4,650	4,600	4,200	4,100	4,300	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,600	4,500

Southeast Region 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	29,500	30,150	31,300	33,650	34,900	36,650	37,450	37,950	36,300	33,550	32,050	30,800	33,700
Goods-producing	4,350	4,500	5,400	6,900	7,100	7,550	8,400	8,850	7,750	6,700	5,850	4,800	6,500
Mining	300	300	300	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
Construction	800	800	850	1,300	1,250	1,350	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,200	1,100	950	1,150
Manufacturing	3,250	3,400	4,250	5,250	5,500	5,850	6,750	7,200	6,100	5,150	4,400	3,500	5,050
Durable Goods	1,600	1,700	2,400	2,800	3,100	3,200	3,300	3,350	3,050	2,900	2,450	1,700	2,850
Lumber & Wood Products	1,550	1,600	2,300	2,750	3,000	3,150	3,200	3,250	3,000	2,800	2,350	1,600	2,550
Nondurable Goods	1,650	1,700	1,850	2,450	2,400	2,650	3,450	3,850	3,050	2,250	1,950	1,800	2,400
Seafood Processing	600	650	800	1,400	1,300	1,550	2,300	2,650	1,950	1,150	900	650	1,350
Pulp Mills	850	850	850	900	850	900	900	950	900	900	850	900	900
Service-producing	25,150	25,650	25,900	26,750	27,800	29,100	29,050	29,100	28,550	26,850	26,200	26,000	27,200
Transportation	2,250	2,250	2,300	2,300	2,650	3,200	3,150	3,200	3,000	2,600	2,400	2,300	2,650
Trade	4,900	4,900	5,000	5,200	5,500	5,900	6,000	6,150	5,650	5,400	5,200	5,200	5,400
Wholesale Trade	600	600	600	600	600	650	600	600	550	600	550	550	600
Retail Trade	4,300	4,300	4,400	4,600	4,900	5,250	5,400	5,550	5,100	4,800	4,650	4,650	4,850
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,050	1,150	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,050	1,100	1,050	1,050	1,050
Services & Misc.	5,000	5,100	5,200	5,550	6,000	6,500	6,500	6,300	6,100	5,450	5,200	5,150	5,650
Government	12,000	12,400	12,400	12,650	12,500	12,400	12,300	12,350	12,750	12,300	12,350	12,300	12,400
Federal	1,950	1,900	1,950	2,100	2,150	2,300	2,400	2,350	2,400	2,200	2,150	2,100	2,150
State	5,450	5,750	5,650	5,700	5,600	5,700	5,750	5,550	5,550	5,400	5,400	5,300	5,550
Local	4,600	4,750	4,800	4,850	4,750	4,400	4,150	4,450	4,800	4,700	4,800	4,900	4,650

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1990.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work 1989 & 1990

Anchorage-MatSu Region 1989

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	104,250	105,700	106,750	108,200	111,050	114,300	115,600	116,900	117,250	114,450	113,300	113,000	117,750
Goods-producing	8,900	9,100	9,350	10,050	11,050	11,950	12,750	13,100	12,900	11,950	10,950	10,150	11,000
Mining	3,600	3,700	3,750	3,750	3,650	3,600	3,600	3,700	3,650	3,650	3,600	3,600	3,650
Construction	3,450	3,550	3,700	4,300	5,200	5,800	6,150	6,400	6,700	6,200	5,350	4,650	5,100
Manufacturing	1,850	1,850	1,900	2,000	2,200	2,550	3,000	3,000	2,550	2,100	2,000	1,900	2,250
Service-producing	95,350	96,600	97,400	98,150	100,000	102,350	102,850	103,800	104,350	102,500	102,350	102,850	100,700
Transportation	9,350	9,450	9,550	9,950	10,550	11,200	11,650	11,700	11,800	11,500	11,050	11,150	10,750
Trade	25,400	25,300	25,750	25,950	26,800	27,600	27,800	28,100	27,900	27,550	27,750	27,850	27,000
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,300	7,350	7,250	7,200	7,000	7,150	6,950	7,050	7,000	7,000	7,100	7,000	7,100
Services & Misc.	25,600	26,150	26,250	26,500	27,700	28,850	29,050	29,200	28,650	27,650	27,700	27,750	27,600
Government	27,700	28,350	28,600	28,550	27,950	27,550	27,400	27,750	29,000	28,800	28,750	29,100	28,300
Federal	10,250	10,200	10,250	10,050	10,100	10,350	10,400	10,500	10,350	10,250	10,250	10,650	10,300
State	7,450	8,150	8,200	8,350	7,650	7,650	7,600	7,550	8,550	8,550	8,500	8,400	8,050
Local	10,000	10,000	10,150	10,150	10,200	9,550	9,400	9,700	10,100	10,000	10,000	10,050	9,950

Anchorage-MatSu Region 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	110,200	112,700	114,550	115,500	117,900	122,750	122,700	123,450	123,450	120,600	118,60[illegible]	[illegible]50	118,350
Goods-producing	9,700	10,150	10,850	11,450	12,000	13,800	14,550	14,800	14,300	13,300	12,20[illegible]	[illegible]50	12,350
Mining	3,700	3,850	4,000	3,850	3,800	3,700	3,800	4,000	4,050	4,050	4,050	[illegible]	3,900
Construction	4,100	4,300	4,800	5,200	5,750	7,200	7,600	7,800	7,650	6,950	6,00[illegible]	[illegible]	6,050
Manufacturing	1,900	2,000	2,050	2,400	2,450	2,900	3,150	3,000	2,600	2,300	[illegible]50	2,050	2,400
Service-producing	100,500	102,550	103,700	104,050	105,900	108,950	108,150	108,650	109,150	107,300	106,400	106,650	106,000
Transportation	10,700	10,900	11,100	11,200	11,800	12,500	12,400	12,500	12,350	11,750	11,500	11,400	11,700
Trade	26,400	26,450	26,700	27,150	27,800	28,600	28,600	29,050	28,850	28,550	28,500	28,700	27,950
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,900	6,850	6,900	6,800	6,900	7,000	6,950	6,950	6,900	6,900	6,950	7,000	6,900
Services & Misc.	28,300	28,950	29,400	29,250	30,050	31,550	31,350	31,250	31,150	30,100	30,100	30,050	30,150
Government	28,200	29,400	29,600	29,650	29,350	29,300	28,850	28,900	29,900	30,000	29,350	29,500	29,350
Federal	10,500	10,650	10,750	10,600	10,700	10,850	10,900	10,600	10,650	10,400	10,300	10,400	10,600
State	7,750	8,550	8,650	8,700	8,100	8,250	8,100	8,250	8,900	8,950	8,950	8,900	8,500
Local	9,950	10,200	10,200	10,350	10,550	10,200	9,850	10,050	10,350	10,650	10,100	10,200	10,200

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1990.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

movement of nonagricultural wage and salary employment.

Revised Employment Estimates Incorporate Latest UI Tax Data

The most comprehensive count of nonagricultural wage and salary employment is based on Unemployment Insurance (UI) tax reports, commonly referred to as the Quarterly Report of Employment and Wages or the ES-202 report. ES-202 data are not immediately incorporated into the current employment estimates, however, due to a six-to-nine month lag in the collection and publication of this information. The January 1991 benchmark process, though, incorporates the most recent ES-202 data available.

During the benchmark, revised estimates were calculated through December 1990. These estimates incorporate ES-202 data through June 1990. The remaining six months of 1990 were

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work 1989 & 1990

Municipality of Anchorage 1989

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	97,950	99,350	100,350	101,550	104,250	107,250	108,850	110,100	110,100	107,400	106,550	106,300	105,000
Goods-producing	8,550	8,750	9,050	9,650	10,600	11,450	12,300	12,550	12,350	11,350	10,600	9,850	10,600
Mining	3,500	3,550	3,650	3,600	3,500	3,450	3,500	3,550	3,500	3,500	3,600	3,600	3,550
Construction	3,300	3,400	3,550	4,100	5,000	5,550	5,900	6,100	6,400	5,850	5,100	4,400	4,900
Manufacturing	1,750	1,800	1,850	1,950	2,100	2,450	2,900	2,900	2,450	2,000	1,900	1,850	2,150
Service-producing	89,400	90,600	91,300	91,900	93,650	95,800	96,550	97,550	97,750	96,050	95,950	96,450	94,400
Transportation	8,700	8,800	8,950	9,300	9,900	10,650	11,100	11,150	11,100	10,850	10,400	10,500	10,100
Trucking & Warehousing	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,350	1,400	1,550	1,600	1,550	1,600	1,350	1,400	1,500	1,400
Water Transportation	150	200	200	250	350	350	400	350	350	300	250	300	300
Air Transportation	3,300	3,300	3,400	3,450	3,650	3,950	4,100	4,150	4,100	3,900	3,900	3,950	3,750
Communications	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Trade	23,950	23,850	24,300	24,450	25,250	25,950	26,050	26,350	26,200	25,900	26,150	26,250	25,400
Wholesale Trade	5,500	5,500	5,600	5,750	5,950	6,100	6,150	6,200	6,150	6,050	6,000	6,000	5,900
Retail Trade	18,450	18,350	18,700	18,700	19,300	19,850	19,900	20,150	20,050	19,850	20,150	20,250	19,500
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	2,550	2,450	2,500	2,500	2,700	2,650	2,650	2,750	2,750	2,800	3,150	3,250	2,750
Food Stores	2,950	2,900	3,000	2,950	2,950	3,050	3,200	3,250	3,300	3,000	2,950	2,850	3,050
Eating & Drinking Places	7,250	7,300	7,450	7,400	7,550	7,900	7,800	7,950	7,950	7,850	7,800	7,750	7,650
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,900	6,950	6,850	6,800	6,550	6,700	6,550	6,650	6,600	6,550	6,650	6,550	6,700
Services & Misc.	24,500	25,300	25,100	25,350	26,400	27,450	27,650	27,800	27,250	26,400	26,450	26,500	26,300
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,100	2,150	2,200	2,150	2,100	2,400	2,600	2,450	2,350	2,150	2,150	2,200	2,250
Government	25,350	26,000	26,100	26,000	25,550	25,050	25,200	25,600	26,600	26,350	26,300	26,650	25,900
Federal	10,150	10,100	10,100	9,900	10,000	10,250	10,300	10,400	10,250	10,150	10,150	10,550	10,200
State	6,650	7,350	7,400	7,500	6,900	6,850	6,750	6,750	7,650	7,700	7,700	7,600	7,250
Local	8,550	8,550	8,600	8,600	8,650	7,950	8,150	8,450	8,700	8,500	8,450	8,500	8,450

Municipality of Anchorage 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	103,550	105,900	107,550	108,400	110,650	114,950	115,150	115,850	115,450	112,800	111,000	110,500	111,000
Goods-producing	9,350	9,850	10,500	11,150	11,650	13,400	14,000	14,150	13,750	12,700	11,550	10,550	11,900
Mining	3,650	3,850	3,950	3,850	3,800	3,700	3,750	3,900	3,950	3,900	3,850	3,750	3,850
Construction	3,900	4,100	4,600	5,000	5,500	6,950	7,250	7,400	7,300	6,600	5,650	4,800	5,750
Manufacturing	1,800	1,900	1,950	2,300	2,350	2,750	3,000	2,850	2,500	2,200	2,050	2,000	2,300
Service-producing	94,200	96,050	97,050	97,250	99,000	101,550	101,150	101,700	101,700	100,100	99,450	99,950	99,100
Transportation	10,050	10,200	10,400	10,500	11,100	11,850	11,800	11,900	11,600	11,000	10,800	10,700	11,000
Trucking & Warehousing	1,300	1,400	1,500	1,450	1,550	1,700	1,600	1,700	1,750	1,550	1,500	1,550	1,550
Water Transportation	250	250	250	300	350	350	300	250	250	350	300	250	300
Air Transportation	3,900	3,900	3,950	3,950	4,050	4,400	4,450	4,450	4,300	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,100
Communications	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,850	1,900	1,900	1,900	2,000	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,950	1,900
Trade	24,750	24,800	25,000	25,400	25,950	26,600	26,600	27,000	26,700	26,600	26,600	26,900	26,100
Wholesale Trade	5,550	5,600	5,650	5,750	5,850	6,050	6,050	6,050	5,850	5,950	6,000	6,000	5,850
Retail Trade	19,200	19,200	19,350	19,650	20,100	20,550	20,550	20,950	20,850	20,650	20,600	20,900	20,200
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	2,900	2,850	2,850	2,900	3,000	3,200	3,150	3,250	3,200	3,200	3,300	3,300	3,100
Food Stores	3,050	3,050	3,000	3,100	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,350	3,400	3,300	3,100	3,200	3,200
Eating & Drinking Places	7,250	7,350	7,400	7,550	7,650	7,800	7,850	7,850	7,850	7,800	7,800	7,850	7,650
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,450	6,450	6,450	6,350	6,500	6,550	6,500	6,450	6,450	6,450	6,500	6,500	6,450
Services & Misc.	27,100	27,700	28,150	27,950	28,650	29,950	29,750	29,650	29,600	28,650	28,750	28,850	28,750
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,250	2,300	2,350	2,350	2,300	2,700	2,750	2,700	2,550	2,350	2,400	2,500	2,450
Government	25,850	26,900	27,050	27,050	26,800	26,600	26,500	26,700	27,350	27,400	26,800	27,000	26,850
Federal	10,400	10,500	10,550	10,400	10,550	10,700	10,700	10,500	10,500	10,250	10,250	10,350	10,450
State	7,000	7,750	7,850	7,900	7,350	7,350	7,250	7,400	8,050	8,150	8,150	8,100	7,700
Local	8,450	8,650	8,650	8,750	8,900	8,550	8,550	8,800	8,800	9,000	8,400	8,550	8,650

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1990.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work 1989 & 1990

Gulf Coast Region 1989

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	18,100	18,500	19,200	22,450	25,950	29,700	32,900	32,550	27,000	23,050	20,550	20,050	24,150
Goods-producing	3,850	4,100	4,500	4,950	5,800	7,200	9,600	9,100	5,900	5,450	4,250	3,850	5,700
Mining	750	750	750	800	800	850	950	1,150	950	1,150	1,100	1,050	900
Construction	900	750	850	950	1,150	1,350	1,400	1,350	1,300	1,300	1,100	950	1,100
Manufacturing	2,200	2,600	2,900	3,200	3,850	5,000	7,250	6,600	3,650	3,000	2,050	1,850	3,700
Seafood Processing	1,400	1,800	2,050	2,350	2,900	3,950	6,200	5,550	2,650	2,100	1,150	1,000	2,750
Service-producing	14,250	14,400	14,700	17,500	20,150	22,500	23,300	23,450	21,100	17,600	16,300	16,200	18,450
Transportation	1,500	1,500	1,550	3,300	5,300	6,600	7,750	7,950	5,700	2,550	1,850	1,750	3,950
Trade	3,050	3,000	3,200	3,650	4,050	4,350	4,450	4,300	4,000	3,800	3,600	3,550	3,750
Wholesale Trade	450	400	450	500	550	650	700	650	550	500	450	450	550
Retail Trade	2,600	2,600	2,750	3,150	3,500	3,700	3,750	3,650	3,450	3,300	3,150	3,100	3,250
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	500	500	500	550	550	600	600	600	600	650	600	600	550
Services & Misc.	3,550	3,600	3,650	4,000	4,300	4,850	4,900	4,900	4,700	4,300	4,100	4,100	4,250
Government	5,650	5,800	5,800	6,000	5,950	6,100	5,800	5,700	6,100	6,300	6,150	6,200	5,950
Federal	500	500	500	500	500	600	600	600	600	550	500	550	550
State	1,650	1,750	1,750	1,850	1,750	1,900	1,950	2,000	2,250	2,150	2,050	2,000	1,900
Local	3,500	3,550	3,550	3,650	3,700	3,600	3,050	3,100	3,250	3,600	3,600	3,650	3,500

Gulf Coast Region 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	20,000	21,050	21,750	23,650	25,250	27,650	29,300	28,900	24,650	23,100	21,300	20,950	23,950
Goods-producing	4,450	4,900	5,350	6,500	7,150	8,800	10,700	10,300	6,850	5,900	4,650	4,350	6,650
Mining	1,050	1,100	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,250	1,350	1,400	1,300	1,250	1,150	1,100	1,200
Construction	750	750	850	950	1,100	1,300	1,200	1,300	1,250	1,200	1,050	950	1,050
Manufacturing	2,650	3,050	3,400	4,400	4,850	6,250	8,150	7,600	4,300	3,450	2,450	2,300	4,400
Seafood Processing	1,850	2,150	2,550	3,450	3,900	5,200	7,100	6,500	3,250	2,450	1,500	1,300	3,450
Service-producing	15,550	16,150	16,400	17,150	18,100	18,850	18,600	18,600	17,800	17,200	16,650	16,600	17,300
Transportation	1,750	1,750	1,850	1,900	2,050	2,150	2,200	2,250	2,050	1,950	1,850	1,850	1,950
Trade	3,450	3,500	3,600	3,950	4,350	4,750	4,850	4,650	4,200	3,850	3,800	3,700	4,050
Wholesale Trade	400	450	500	500	600	600	700	600	500	450	450	450	500
Retail Trade	3,050	3,050	3,100	3,450	3,750	4,150	4,150	4,050	3,700	3,400	3,350	3,250	3,550
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	500	550	550	550	600	600	600	700	600	650	650	600	600
Services & Misc.	3,950	4,050	4,100	4,350	4,700	5,000	5,100	5,150	4,800	4,550	4,450	4,500	4,550
Government	5,900	6,300	6,300	6,400	6,400	6,350	5,850	5,850	6,150	6,200	5,900	5,950	6,150
Federal	500	500	550	650	650	700	700	650	650	600	450	450	600
State	1,750	2,000	1,950	1,950	1,900	1,950	1,950	1,950	2,050	1,900	1,850	1,850	1,900
Local	3,650	3,800	3,800	3,800	3,850	3,700	3,200	3,250	3,450	3,700	3,600	3,650	3,600

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1990.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

reestimated using an augmented CES sample. The new sample incorporates additional employment information not available at the time the original estimate was generated.

Original Estimates Understated Growth

The original estimates tracked the benchmarked employment numbers fairly accurately as to the trend employment was taking during the last half of 1989 and 1990, but the original estimates understated the growth in Alaska's economy. (See Figure 1.)

On an annual average basis, employment increased 4.5% from 1989 to 1990. The original estimates pegged the annual employment growth gain at 2.5%. The majority of the underestimation occurred in the mining, services and transportation industries. (For additional analysis of 1990 see article beginning on page 1.)

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work 1989 & 1990

Southwest Region 1989

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	12,950	14,050	14,650	14,600	15,350	16,400	17,450	15,800	15,100	14,100	13,250	13,150	14,750
Goods-producing	3,200	4,000	4,300	4,250	4,650	5,800	7,100	5,150	4,200	3,150	2,600	2,650	4,250
Seafood Processing	3,000	3,750	4,150	3,950	4,250	5,300	6,650	4,750	3,800	2,750	2,300	2,350	3,900
Service-producing	9,750	10,050	10,350	10,350	10,700	10,600	10,350	10,650	10,900	10,950	10,650	10,500	10,500
Government	5,900	6,250	6,400	6,350	6,300	6,000	5,550	5,750	6,400	6,450	6,350	6,150	6,150
Federal	1,300	1,300	1,350	1,350	1,300	1,350	1,350	1,400	1,400	1,350	1,300	1,250	1,350
State	450	550	550	550	550	550	550	500	550	550	500	550	550
Local	4,150	4,400	4,500	4,450	4,450	4,100	3,650	3,850	4,450	4,550	4,550	4,350	4,300

Southwest Region 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	13,450	14,650	14,950	15,450	16,150	16,550	17,850	16,000	15,300	14,400	13,900	14,150	15,250
Goods-producing	3,250	4,250	4,550	4,750	5,050	5,550	7,050	5,250	4,150	3,100	2,900	3,250	4,400
Seafood Processing	2,950	4,000	4,250	4,450	4,650	5,100	6,650	4,850	3,750	2,700	2,550	2,950	4,050
Service-producing	10,200	10,400	10,450	10,700	11,100	11,000	10,800	10,750	11,150	11,300	11,000	10,900	10,800
Government	6,150	6,250	6,350	6,400	6,450	6,050	5,600	5,750	6,300	6,450	6,350	6,300	6,200
Federal	1,300	1,250	1,300	1,250	1,250	1,350	1,300	1,350	1,350	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
State	500	550	500	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550	550
Local	4,350	4,450	4,550	4,600	4,650	4,150	3,750	3,850	4,400	4,600	4,500	4,450	4,350

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1990.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Hours and Earnings Statistics Also Revised

Employers also provide the data used to estimate hours and earnings statistics. During the benchmark, these estimates are adjusted to reflect the revised level of employment. When the employment data are benchmarked, the hours and earnings data are reviewed to see if employment level changes might have further changed the hours and earnings estimates. (See Table 19.) Usually, the hours and earnings data have changed either due to the benchmarking of employment or new firms being added to augment existing hours and earnings sample. (It is noteworthy that the quarterly ES-202 data don't lend themselves to be used as estimates of average weekly hours and earnings data; therefore, hours and earnings data are entirely sample-based.)

Hours and Earnings Series for Retail Trade Redefined

Previously, hours and earnings data which were published for "Retail Trade" and "Trade" excluded any sample data from eating and drinking establishments. Beginning with the publication of the revised estimates for 1990, this important sector of Alaska's retail economy is no longer excluded from hours and earnings estimates.

Unfortunately, there is an undesirable result of including eating and drinking establishments in the retail trade and trade hours and earnings estimates. The new estimates draw from a significantly different sample composition, which makes the estimates produced prior to January 1990 not comparable to the estimates produced after January 1990. The result has been to decrease both the average weekly hours and the average hourly earnings in both the trade and retail trade series. This is due to the fact that part-time workers make up a good portion of the work force in this industry, and eating and drinking estab-

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work 1989 & 1990

Fairbanks North Star Borough 1989

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	23,650	24,150	24,650	25,600	26,750	28,650	25,500	29,000	28,950	27,200	26,100	25,950	26,600
Goods-producing	1,650	1,600	1,800	2,000	2,500	3,150	3,200	3,400	3,200	2,800	2,200	1,950	2,450
Mining	100	100	100	100	150	200	250	250	200	150	100	100	150
Construction	1,050	1,050	1,200	1,400	1,800	2,350	2,300	2,500	2,350	2,050	1,600	1,300	1,750
Manufacturing	500	450	500	500	550	600	650	650	650	600	500	550	550
Service-producing	22,000	22,550	22,850	23,600	24,250	25,500	25,300	25,600	25,750	24,400	23,900	24,000	24,150
Transportation	1,650	1,650	1,600	1,700	1,900	2,050	2,200	2,250	2,300	2,050	1,850	1,800	1,900
Trucking & Warehousing	400	400	350	400	400	450	500	550	500	500	450	500	450
Air Transportation	300	300	300	300	350	350	400	400	400	350	350	400	350
Communications	300	300	300	250	300	300	300	300	300	250	300	250	300
Trade	5,050	5,050	5,200	5,500	6,000	6,600	6,500	6,450	6,200	5,700	5,600	5,650	5,800
Wholesale Trade	650	650	650	650	700	750	700	700	700	700	700	700	700
Retail Trade	4,400	4,400	4,550	4,850	5,300	5,850	5,800	5,750	5,500	5,000	4,900	4,950	5,100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	600	600	600	650	650	700	700	700	700	650	700	700	650
Food Stores	700	700	700	750	750	800	750	800	800	750	750	750	750
Eating & Drinking Places	1,600	1,600	1,650	1,800	2,200	2,500	2,550	2,450	2,300	1,850	1,700	1,700	2,000
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	800	750	800	800	850	950	850	850	800	750	750	750	800
Services & Misc.	5,500	5,450	5,500	5,750	5,850	6,300	6,300	6,500	6,400	5,950	5,850	5,750	5,950
Government	9,000	9,650	9,750	9,850	9,650	9,600	9,450	9,550	10,050	9,950	9,850	10,050	9,700
Federal	2,850	2,900	2,950	3,000	3,150	3,250	3,200	3,250	3,200	3,100	3,050	3,100	3,100
State	3,600	4,150	4,200	4,200	3,850	3,900	3,900	3,850	4,150	4,150	4,050	4,200	4,000
Local	2,550	2,600	2,600	2,650	2,650	2,450	2,350	2,450	2,700	2,700	2,750	2,750	2,600

Fairbanks North Star Borough 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	24,700	25,400	25,800	26,450	27,650	28,650	28,900	29,050	29,050	27,650	27,000	26,700	27,250
Goods-producing	1,600	1,700	1,750	1,900	2,450	2,850	2,950	3,000	2,750	2,550	2,150	1,900	2,300
Mining	50	100	100	150	200	200	300	300	250	200	100	100	150
Construction	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,200	1,650	1,950	1,950	2,000	1,850	1,750	1,500	1,250	1,550
Manufacturing	500	500	500	550	600	700	700	700	650	600	550	550	600
Service-producing	23,100	23,700	24,050	24,550	25,200	25,800	25,950	26,050	26,300	25,100	24,850	24,800	24,950
Transportation	1,750	1,700	1,750	1,850	1,950	2,050	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,100	2,000	1,950	2,000
Trucking & Warehousing	450	400	450	400	450	450	500	550	550	550	500	500	500
Air Transportation	400	400	400	400	450	450	450	500	450	450	450	450	450
Communications	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Trade	5,350	5,300	5,400	5,550	6,250	6,450	6,550	6,450	6,450	5,950	5,850	5,900	5,950
Wholesale Trade	700	750	750	700	750	800	800	800	750	750	700	750	750
Retail Trade	4,650	4,550	4,650	4,850	5,500	5,650	5,750	5,650	5,700	5,200	5,150	5,150	5,200
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	600	500	500	500	550	600	600	600	600	600	650	650	600
Food Stores	750	750	750	800	800	850	800	850	850	800	800	800	800
Eating & Drinking Places	1,650	1,600	1,700	1,800	2,350	2,450	2,500	2,400	2,350	1,900	1,850	1,850	2,050
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	800	800	800	800	850	850	850	850	800	750	750	750	800
Services & Misc.	5,750	5,850	5,900	6,000	6,150	6,500	6,700	6,850	6,450	6,100	6,050	6,050	6,200
Government	9,450	10,050	10,200	10,350	10,000	9,950	9,650	9,600	10,200	10,200	10,200	10,150	10,000
Federal	3,000	3,050	3,050	3,150	3,250	3,250	3,250	3,150	3,150	3,050	3,000	3,000	3,100
State	3,750	4,250	4,400	4,400	4,000	4,200	4,050	4,000	4,300	4,400	4,400	4,350	4,200
Local	2,700	2,750	2,750	2,800	2,750	2,500	2,350	2,450	2,750	2,750	2,800	2,800	2,700

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1990.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work 1989 & 1990

Interior Region 1989

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	27,250	27,700	28,200	29,700	30,850	33,000	33,050	33,450	33,500	31,200	29,700	29,450	30,600
Goods-producing	1,850	1,850	1,950	2,300	2,750	3,450	3,450	3,600	3,400	3,100	2,400	2,100	2,700
Mining	250	250	250	300	300	350	400	400	350	350	200	200	300
Construction	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,450	1,850	2,450	2,400	2,550	2,400	2,150	1,650	1,350	1,800
Manufacturing	500	500	500	550	600	650	650	650	650	600	550	550	600
Service-producing	25,400	25,850	26,250	27,400	28,100	29,550	29,600	29,850	30,100	28,100	27,300	27,350	27,900
Transportation	1,950	1,850	1,800	1,900	2,150	2,400	2,550	2,600	2,550	2,2[illegible]	2,000	2,000	2,150
Trade	5,400	5,400	5,600	5,900	6,450	7,100	7,050	6,950	6,700	6,[illegible]0	5,950	5,950	6,200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	850	850	900	900	950	1,000	950	950	900	850	850	850	900
Services	5,900	5,850	5,900	6,350	6,400	7,000	7,100	7,300	7,100	6,450	6,350	6,200	6,500
Government	11,300	11,900	12,050	12,350	12,150	12,050	11,950	12,050	12,850	12,450	12,150	12,350	12,150
Federal	3,400	3,450	3,500	3,600	3,800	4,000	3,950	4,000	3,900	3,700	3,600	3,650	3,700
State	3,850	4,400	4,450	4,550	4,150	4,250	4,450	4,400	4,750	4,500	4,350	4,500	4,400
Local	4,050	4,050	4,100	4,200	4,200	3,800	3,550	3,650	4,200	4,250	4,200	4,200	4,050

Interior Region 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	28,250	28,900	29,500	30,450	32,100	33,400	33,900	34,000	33,400	31,550	30,650	30,250	31,350
Goods-producing	1,800	1,850	1,950	2,100	2,800	3,150	3,300	3,300	3,100	2,850	2,300	2,000	2,550
Mining	200	250	250	300	400	400	500	500	450	400	250	200	350
Construction	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,250	1,750	2,050	2,050	2,100	1,950	1,800	1,500	1,250	1,600
Manufacturing	500	500	500	550	650	700	750	700	700	650	550	550	600
Service-producing	26,450	27,050	27,550	28,350	29,300	30,250	30,600	30,700	30,300	28,700	28,350	28,250	28,800
Transportation	1,900	1,850	1,950	2,050	2,200	2,400	2,600	2,650	2,650	2,350	2,200	2,150	2,250
Trade	5,700	5,600	5,700	5,900	6,700	6,900	7,050	7,000	6,850	6,350	6,300	6,300	6,350
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	850	850	850	900	900	950	950	950	950	800	800	800	850
Services	6,200	6,300	6,400	6,600	6,850	7,400	7,600	7,800	7,250	6,700	6,550	6,500	6,850
Government	11,800	12,450	12,650	12,900	12,650	12,600	12,400	12,300	12,700	12,500	12,500	12,500	12,500
Federal	3,550	3,650	3,650	3,800	3,950	4,000	4,000	3,900	3,900	3,650	3,550	3,600	3,750
State	4,050	4,550	4,700	4,700	4,350	4,700	4,750	4,700	4,650	4,650	4,650	4,600	4,600
Local	4,200	4,250	4,300	4,400	4,350	3,900	3,650	3,700	4,150	4,200	4,300	4,300	4,150

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1990.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

lishments employ more workers than any other segment of the trade industry.

Labor Force Data Revised

Labor force statistics are also benchmarked in January using the new nonagricultural wage and salary numbers as well as other updated data. (See Table 20.)

The employment numbers in the labor force table differ from the nonagricultural wage and salary numbers because of the different definitions and methodologies used in making estimates. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment is considered the better indicator of changes in industry employment; the labor force data is considered the better measure of job prospects and of current hardships of the unemployed.

Tables • 17 & 18

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work 1989 & 1990

Northern Region 1989

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	12,100	12,750	12,050	13,050	13,400	13,950	13,700	14,350	14,350	14,300	14,050	13,500	13,550
Goods-producing	4,700	4,900	5,100	5,000	5,250	5,750	5,850	6,050	6,050	6,050	6,000	5,450	5,500
Mining	4,350	4,550	4,750	4,600	4,900	5,350	5,500	5,550	5,450	5,450	5,450	5,000	5,100
Service-producing	7,400	7,850	7,950	8,050	8,150	8,200	7,850	8,300	8,300	8,250	8,050	8,050	8,050
Government	4,050	4,300	4,400	4,500	4,400	4,300	3,800	4,150	4,350	4,450	4,350	4,300	4,300
Federal	250	250	250	300	250	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
State	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	400	350	350	350	350
Local	3,450	3,700	3,800	3,850	3,800	3,650	3,150	3,500	3,650	3,800	3,700	3,650	3,650

Northern Region 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	12,800	13,200	13,450	13,950	14,400	15,800	15,800	16,250	15,850	15,150	14,750	14,200	14,650
Goods-producing	5,050	5,100	5,100	5,450	5,900	7,100	7,300	7,450	6,850	6,400	6,350	5,900	6,150
Mining	4,700	4,700	4,700	5,050	5,450	6,550	6,750	6,900	6,250	5,850	5,900	5,500	5,700
Service-producing	7,750	8,100	8,350	8,500	8,500	8,700	8,500	8,800	9,000	8,750	8,400	8,300	8,450
Government	4,250	4,400	4,450	4,550	4,450	4,300	4,000	4,100	4,450	4,600	4,450	4,300	4,350
Federal	300	300	300	300	300	350	300	300	300	300	300	250	300
State	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
Local	3,600	3,750	3,800	3,900	3,800	3,600	3,350	3,450	3,800	3,950	3,800	3,700	3,700

Annual averages may not add due to rounding.

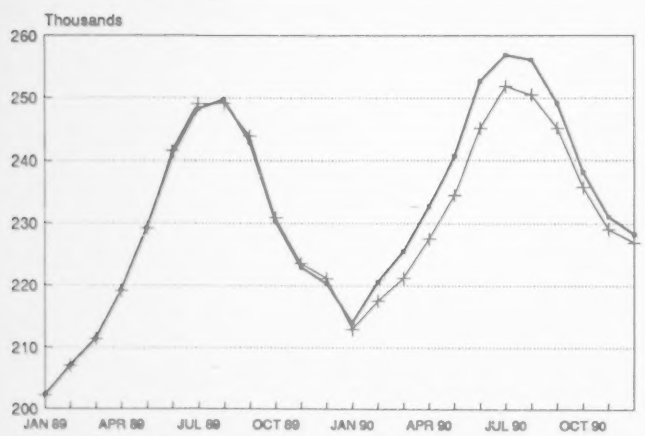
Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

Benchmark: March 1990.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Figure • 1

Original Estimate vs Benchmark Estimate January 1989 to December 1990



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Labor Force Data Shows '90 Was Another Good Year for Job Seekers

In 1990, Alaska posted another year of low unemployment rates. The 7.0% statewide unemployment rate was the second-lowest level of unemployment since 1978. (No comparable unemployment rates are available prior to 1978.) While the unemployment rate wasn't quite as low as last year's 6.7%, it nonetheless meant that Alaskans were unemployed less frequently than they were throughout most of the 1980s. During every month of the year unemployment in Alaska was under the double-digit level. This was only the second time since 1978 that this has happened. As 1990 closed, Alaska was on a string of 31 consecutive months of unemployment below 10.0%. All of these signs indicated that the good conditions for job seekers in Alaska's labor market which prevailed in 1989 carried over into 1990.

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries
1990 Annual Averages

Average Weekly Earnings 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Mining	$1,032.12	$1,062.32	$1,164.00	$1,111.14	$1,039.60	$1,150.03	$1,151.50	$1,116.88	$1,212.84	$1,076.43	$1,174.64	$1,164.03	$1,123.75
Construction	966.42	1,025.91	1,134.24	1,139.67	1,147.68	1,191.70	1,149.45	1,181.47	1,198.54	1,132.04	1,040.17	1,005.95	1,123.53
Manufacturing	500.94	499.80	559.37	601.83	603.90	572.76	537.10	629.72	547.26	556.90	505.59	487.12	559.45
Seafood Processing	407.10	396.00	467.86	502.18	444.69	449.45	462.85	563.57	380.79	386.78	380.59	332.70	448.82
Trans, Comm & Utilities	583.25	597.80	575.74	595.43	585.82	608.60	628.99	598.88	590.25	575.23	591.66	633.19	596.75
Trade	332.76	347.28	347.60	358.80	348.48	365.72	372.33	361.76	376.81	360.75	355.95	368.68	358.18
Wholesale	544.45	571.35	575.14	595.10	585.47	583.12	589.55	550.37	568.66	570.36	587.55	591.84	572.99
Retail	289.29	299.70	299.50	309.69	304.00	320.46	326.93	322.75	335.91	316.91	311.61	321.96	314.37
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	399.25	424.18	415.35	422.57	405.45	401.37	394.87	388.27	414.29	398.14	406.55	416.80	407.05

Average Weekly Hours 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Mining	44.7	49.0	50.0	48.5	45.2	49.0	49.0	48.9	52.3	46.7	49.5	48.3	48.5
Construction	41.3	43.6	48.0	48.6	48.0	48.8	47.4	48.6	47.9	46.3	43.0	43.1	46.6
Manufacturing	41.4	42.0	45.7	47.5	44.8	44.4	47.7	54.1	42.0	41.1	37.9	37.1	44.9
Seafood Processing	46.0	46.1	51.3	51.4	45.1	44.5	51.2	59.7	41.3	40.8	41.1	36.4	47.9
Trans, Comm & Utilities	34.8	35.0	34.6	35.4	34.0	35.8	36.4	34.9	35.6	33.6	34.2	36.1	35.0
Trade	30.5	31.6	31.6	32.5	32.0	33.8	34.7	34.0	34.1	32.5	32.3	33.7	32.8
Wholesale	38.1	39.0	38.6	39.7	37.9	39.4	39.7	39.2	39.6	39.2	39.8	41.1	39.3
Retail	28.9	30.0	30.1	31.0	30.8	32.6	33.6	32.9	32.9	31.1	30.7	32.1	31.5
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	34.3	36.1	35.5	37.1	34.1	33.7	35.8	33.5	35.5	34.0	34.6	35.9	35.0

Average Hourly Earnings 1990

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual Avg.
Mining	$23.09	$21.68	$23.28	$22.91	$23.00	$23.47	$23.50	$22.84	$23.19	$23.05	$23.73	$24.10	$23.17
Construction	23.40	23.53	23.63	23.45	23.91	24.42	24.25	24.31	24.98	24.45	24.19	23.34	24.11
Manufacturing	12.10	11.90	12.24	12.67	13.48	12.90	11.26	11.64	13.03	13.55	13.34	13.13	12.46
Seafood Processing	8.85	8.59	9.12	9.77	9.86	10.10	9.04	9.44	9.22	9.48	9.26	9.14	9.37
Trans, Comm & Utilities	16.76	17.08	16.64	16.82	17.23	17.00	17.28	17.16	16.58	17.12	17.30	17.54	17.05
Trade	10.91	10.99	11.00	11.04	10.89	10.82	10.73	10.64	11.05	11.10	11.02	10.94	10.92
Wholesale	14.29	14.65	14.90	14.99	14.92	14.80	14.85	14.04	14.36	14.55	14.26	14.40	14.58
Retail	10.01	9.99	9.95	9.99	9.87	9.83	9.73	9.81	10.21	10.19	10.15	10.03	9.98
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	11.64	11.75	11.70	11.39	11.89	11.91	11.03	11.59	11.67	11.71	11.75	11.61	11.63

Benchmark: March 1990.

Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

Averages are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Table • 20

Labor Force By Region and Census Area
Annual Averages 1988-1990

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990
Alaska Statewide	250,000	253,000	257,000	23,000	17,000	18,000	9.2%	6.7%	7.0%	227,000	236,000	239,000
Anch.-MatSu Region	129,328	128,977	132,879	10,787	7,597	8,053	8.3	5.9	6.1	118,541	121,380	124,826
Municipality of Anchorage	114,356	114,257	117,230	8,438	5,803	6,141	7.4	5.1	5.2	105,918	108,454	111,089
MatSu Borough	14,973	14,720	15,649	2,350	1,794	1,912	15.7	12.2	12.2	12,623	12,926	13,737
Gulf Coast Region	27,360	30,825	30,512	3,179	2,409	2,936	11.6	7.8	9.6	24,181	28,416	27,576
Kenai Peninsula Borough	17,222	19,191	18,961	2,406	1,780	2,065	14.0	9.3	10.9	14,816	17,411	16,896
Kodiak Island Borough	5,993	6,950	6,777	347	316	339	5.8	4.5	5.0	5,646	6,634	6,438
Valdez-Cordova	4,146	4,685	4,773	427	314	532	10.3	6.7	11.1	3,719	4,371	4,241
Interior Region	36,779	35,973	35,872	4,570	3,217	3,267	12.4	8.9	9.1	32,209	32,756	32,605
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	31,672	31,006	30,922	3,744	2,604	2,651	11.8	8.4	8.6	27,928	28,402	28,271
Southeast Fairbanks	2,091	2,031	2,058	306	216	251	14.6	10.6	12.2	1,785	1,815	1,807
Yukon-Koyukuk	3,017	2,936	2,891	520	397	364	17.2	13.5	12.6	2,497	2,539	2,527
Northern Region	8,249	8,075	8,304	786	646	659	9.5	8.0	7.9	7,463	7,429	7,645
Nome	3,081	3,014	3,069	351	297	272	11.4	9.9	8.9	2,730	2,717	2,797
North Slope Borough	2,973	2,948	2,999	150	138	107	5.0	4.7	3.6	2,823	2,810	2,892
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,195	2,113	2,237	285	211	280	13.0	10.0	12.5	1,910	1,902	1,957
Southeast Region	35,476	36,013	36,324	2,768	2,498	2,420	7.8	6.9	6.7	32,708	33,515	33,904
Haines Borough	870	876	878	92	79	72	10.6	9.0	8.2	778	797	806
Juneau Borough	15,679	15,955	16,093	887	799	761	5.7	5.0	4.7	14,792	15,156	15,332
Ketchikan Gateway Bor.	6,607	6,717	6,826	546	506	543	8.3	7.5	8.0	6,061	6,211	6,283
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketch.	2,776	2,793	2,794	364	321	294	13.1	11.5	10.5	2,412	2,472	2,500
Sitka Borough	4,130	4,176	4,213	277	228	219	6.7	5.5	5.2	3,853	3,948	3,994
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	1,788	1,769	1,798	282	226	237	15.8	12.8	13.2	1,506	1,543	1,561
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,628	3,728	3,721	322	340	294	8.9	9.1	7.9	3,306	3,388	3,427
Southwest Region	12,808	13,139	13,111	909	633	667	7.1	4.8	5.1	11,899	12,506	12,444
Aleutians East Borough	900	930	920	29	14	9	3.2	1.5	1.0	871	916	911
Aleutians West	2,518	2,600	2,584	78	35	32	3.1	1.3	1.2	2,440	2,565	2,552
Bethel	4,911	5,038	5,029	401	298	312	8.2	5.9	6.2	4,510	4,740	4,717
Bristol Bay Borough	505	508	505	45	24	24	8.9	4.7	4.8	460	484	481
Dillingham	2,295	2,380	2,373	140	115	120	6.1	4.8	5.1	2,155	2,265	2,253
Wade Hampton	1,680	1,684	1,700	217	147	170	12.9	8.7	10.0	1,463	1,537	1,530

Benchmark: March 1990

- Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey in formulas used to allocate federal funds.
- Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.
- The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.
- The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment tables.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

January Continues Employment Gains

by Brian N. Rae

Alaska's impressive employment gains in 1990 did not end with the

changing of the calendar. Employment was up 7,300 in January 1991 when compared to the previous January. (See Table 1.) Like the past year, gains occurred in most industries, and throughout all of the regions. January is usually a month of declining employment, coming down from the holidays' inflated employment levels. January 1991 was no exception, as employment declined 3.0% for all industries. The largest loss occurred in trade, which saw employment decline by 2,500 over the month.

Declining employment in January more than offset the usual drop in the number of people looking for work, and pushed the unemployment rate to its highest level in 23 months: January's 8.8% level matches that of February 1989. (See Figure 1 and Table 4.) Even this "high" unemployment rate is relatively low when compared to previous years. Double digit unemployment rates in January are not unusual, so a rate of 8.8% during the winter months is not cause for concern.

Table • 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment
By Place of Work — Alaska

	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	1/90	Changes from: 12/90	Changes from: 1/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	221,400	228,200	214,100	-6,800	7,300
Goods-producing	30,600	31,400	28,500	-800	2,100
Mining	10,800	11,100	9,900	-300	900
Construction	7,900	9,000	7,200	-1,100	700
Manufacturing	11,900	11,300	11,400	600	500
Durable Goods	2,400	2,600	2,400	-200	0
Lumber & Wood Products	1,700	1,900	1,800	-200	-100
Nondurable Goods	9,500	8,700	9,000	800	500
Seafood Processing	5,800	4,900	5,500	900	300
Pulp Mills	900	900	900	0	0
Service-producing	190,800	196,800	185,600	-6,000	5,200
Transportation	19,200	19,700	18,100	-500	1,100
Trucking & Warehousing	2,400	2,600	2,200	-200	200
Water Transportation	1,000	1,100	1,100	-100	-100
Air Transportation	6,200	6,300	6,000	-100	200
Communications	3,400	3,400	3,200	0	200
Trade	43,900	46,400	42,600	-2,500	1,300
Wholesale Trade	7,900	8,200	7,500	-300	400
Retail Trade	36,000	38,200	35,100	-2,200	900
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	5,800	6,400	5,500	-600	300
Food Stores	6,300	6,600	6,200	-300	100
Eating & Drinking Places	12,000	12,700	12,000	-700	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	10,200	10,200	10,000	0	200
Services & Misc.	48,900	49,700	46,700	-800	2,200
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,500	4,800	4,300	-300	200
Government	68,600	70,800	68,200	-2,200	400
Federal	18,000	18,100	18,100	-100	-100
State	19,700	21,300	19,700	-1,600	0
Local	30,900	31,400	30,400	-500	500

Notes: Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark: March 1990
p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Table • 2

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Municipality of Anchorage

	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	Changes from: 1/90	12/90	1/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	107,450	110,500	103,550	-3,050	3,900
Goods-producing	10,250	10,550	9,350	-300	900
Mining	3,900	3,750	3,650	150	250
Construction	4,350	4,800	3,900	-450	450
Manufacturing	2,000	2,000	1,800	0	200
Service-producing	97,200	99,950	94,200	-2,750	3,000
Transportation	10,550	10,700	10,050	-150	500
Trucking & Warehousing	1,350	1,550	1,300	-200	50
Water Transportation	300	250	250	50	50
Air Transportation	3,900	4,000	3,900	-100	0
Communications	1,950	1,950	1,850	0	100
Trade	25,450	26,900	24,750	-1,450	700
Wholesale Trade	5,800	6,000	5,550	-200	250
Retail Trade	19,650	20,900	19,200	-1,250	450
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	3,000	3,300	2,900	-300	100
Food Stores	3,150	3,200	3,050	-50	100
Eating & Drinking Places	7,350	7,850	7,250	-500	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,450	6,500	6,450	-50	0
Services & Misc.	28,500	28,850	27,100	-350	1,400
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,450	2,500	2,250	-50	200
Government	26,250	27,000	25,850	-750	400
Federal	10,350	10,350	10,400	0	-50
State	7,400	8,100	7,000	-700	400
Local	8,500	8,550	8,450	-50	50

Fairbanks North Star Borough

	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	Changes from: 1/90	12/90	1/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	25,600	26,700	24,700	-1,100	900
Goods-producing	1,650	1,900	1,600	-250	50
Mining	100	100	50	0	50
Construction	1,050	1,250	1,050	-200	0
Manufacturing	500	550	500	-50	0
Service-producing	23,950	24,800	23,100	-850	850
Transportation	1,850	1,950	1,750	-100	100
Trucking & Warehousing	450	500	450	-50	0
Air Transportation	450	450	400	0	50
Communications	300	300	300	0	0
Trade	5,550	5,900	5,350	-350	200
Wholesale Trade	750	750	700	0	50
Retail Trade	4,800	5,150	4,650	-350	150
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	550	650	600	-100	-50
Food Stores	750	800	750	-50	0
Eating & Drinking Places	1,750	1,850	1,650	-100	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	750	750	800	0	-50
Services & Misc.	6,050	6,050	5,750	0	300
Government	9,750	10,150	9,450	-400	300
Federal	2,950	3,000	3,000	-50	-50
State	3,900	4,350	3,750	-450	150
Local	2,900	2,800	2,700	100	200

Anchorage-MatSu Region

	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	Changes from: 1/90	12/90	1/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	114,600	117,950	110,200	-3,350	4,400
Goods-producing	10,800	11,300	9,700	-500	1,100
Mining	4,050	3,950	3,700	100	350
Construction	4,700	5,300	4,100	-600	600
Manufacturing	2,050	2,050	1,900	0	150
Service-producing	103,800	106,650	100,500	-2,850	3,300
Transportation	11,200	11,400	10,700	-200	500
Trade	27,200	28,700	26,400	-1,500	800
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,950	7,000	6,900	-50	50
Services & Misc.	29,850	30,050	28,300	-200	1,550
Government	28,600	29,500	28,200	-900	400
Federal	10,400	10,400	10,500	0	-100
State	8,100	8,900	7,750	-800	350
Local	10,100	10,200	9,950	-100	150

Interior Region

	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	Changes from: 1/90	12/90	1/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	29,000	30,250	28,250	-1,250	750
Goods-producing	1,850	2,000	1,800	-150	50
Mining	200	200	200	0	0
Construction	1,100	1,250	1,100	-150	0
Manufacturing	550	550	500	0	50
Service-producing	27,150	28,250	26,450	-1,100	700
Transportation	2,000	2,150	1,900	-150	100
Trade	5,900	6,300	5,700	-400	200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	800	800	850	0	-50
Services	6,500	6,500	6,200	0	300
Government	11,950	12,500	11,800	-550	150
Federal	3,500	3,600	3,550	-100	-50
State	4,100	4,600	4,050	-500	50
Local	4,350	4,300	4,200	50	150

Notes: Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark: March 1990 p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Southeast Region

	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	Changes from: 1/90	12/90	1/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	29,750	30,800	29,500	-1,050	250
Goods-producing	4,400	4,800	4,350	-400	50
Mining	350	350	300	0	50
Construction	800	950	800	-150	0
Manufacturing	3,250	3,500	3,250	-250	0
Durable Goods	1,500	1,700	1,600	-200	-100
Lumber & Wood Products	1,450	1,600	1,550	-150	-100
Nondurable Goods	1,750	1,800	1,650	-50	100
Seafood Processing	650	650	600	0	50
Pulp Mills	900	900	850	0	50
Service-producing	25,350	26,000	25,150	-650	200
Transportation	2,250	2,300	2,250	-50	0
Trade	5,000	5,200	4,900	-200	100
Wholesale Trade	550	550	600	0	-50
Retail Trade	4,450	4,650	4,300	-200	150
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,050	1,050	1,000	0	50
Services & Misc.	5,000	5,150	5,000	-150	0
Government	12,050	12,300	12,000	-250	50
Federal	2,050	2,100	1,950	-50	100
State	5,250	5,300	5,450	-50	-200
Local	4,750	4,900	4,600	-150	150

Gulf Coast Region

	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	Changes from: 1/90	12/90	1/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	20,400	20,950	20,000	-550	400
Goods-producing	4,550	4,350	4,450	200	100
Mining	1,100	1,100	1,050	0	50
Construction	800	950	750	-150	50
Manufacturing	2,650	2,300	2,650	350	0
Seafood Processing	1,700	1,300	1,850	400	-150
Service-producing	15,850	16,600	15,550	-750	300
Transportation	1,750	1,850	1,750	-100	0
Trade	3,500	3,700	3,450	-200	50
Wholesale Trade	400	450	400	-50	0
Retail Trade	3,100	3,250	3,050	-150	50
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	600	600	500	0	100
Services & Misc.	4,300	4,500	3,950	-200	350
Government	5,700	5,950	5,900	-250	-200
Federal	450	450	500	0	-50
State	1,650	1,850	1,750	-200	-100
Local	3,600	3,650	3,650	-50	-50

Northern Region

	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	Changes from: 1/90	12/90	1/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	13,500	14,200	12,800	-700	700
Goods-producing	5,450	5,900	5,050	-450	400
Mining	5,150	5,500	4,700	-350	450
Service-producing	8,050	8,300	7,750	-250	300
Government	4,150	4,300	4,250	-150	-100
Federal	250	250	300	0	-50
State	350	350	350	0	0
Local	3,550	3,700	3,600	-150	-50

Southwest Region

	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	Changes from: 1/90	12/90	1/90
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	13,850	14,150	13,450	-300	400
Goods-producing	3,550	3,250	3,250	300	300
Seafood Processing	3,300	2,950	2,950	350	350
Service-producing	10,300	10,900	10,200	-600	100
Government	6,000	6,300	6,150	-300	-150
Federal	1,200	1,300	1,300	-100	-100
State	450	550	500	-100	-50
Local	4,350	4,450	4,350	-100	0

Notes: Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark: March 1990 p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

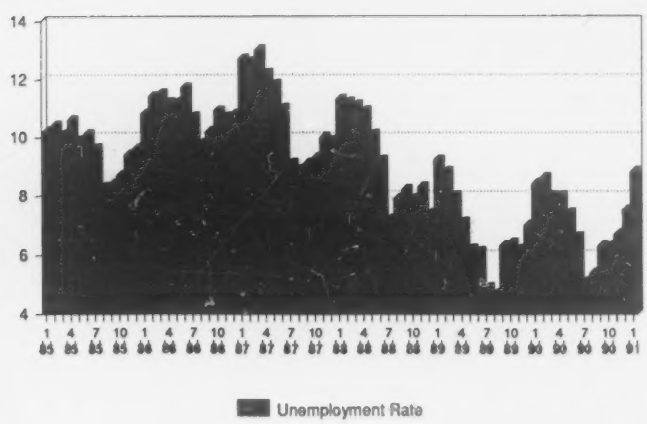
Gulf War Fallout Felt in Alaska

Many other announcements were related, either directly or indirectly, to occurrences in the Persian Gulf. Higher oil prices during the beginning of the conflict meant that oil companies' profits exceeded expectations. While these profits might mean larger dividends for shareholders, money should be available for additional development and exploration activities over the next few years. One such project announced in January is the expanded maintenance of the TransAlaska Pipeline. Three additional miles of pipeline will be replaced, as continued inspection found more corrosion problems.

Most cruise ship lines operating in the state announced an increased number of transits for 1991. Loss of bookings in Europe, caused by concern about terrorist attacks, prompted the companies to shift more ships to Alaska during the summer season. Last summer, many people worried that Alaska's tourism would decline as European travel became easier and America entered a recession. The current U.S. recession still worries many who rely on tourism dollars. Europe's allure as a safe and convenient vacation destination has, however, been largely eliminated with the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf. Terrorist attacks during the last decade did much to steer visitors to Alaska and away from other vacation destinations. While economic pressures might reduce the total number of American tourists this year, hopes are that a higher percentage will spend their vacation dollars in Alaska in 1991.

Figure • 1

Alaska's Unemployment Rate



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Air Traffic Affects Economy

Alaska's two largest airports are feeling the effects of the Persian Gulf War in different ways. The Fairbanks airport has picked up three additional flights from Lufthansa Airlines. Planes flying the Germany to Hong Kong route, which refueled in Dhubai, United Arab Emirates, now refuel in Fairbanks to reduce possibilities of terrorist attacks. The Anchorage airport has not fared as well. Many trans-polar flights have been curtailed or canceled because of decreased bookings. Most of this decline is blamed on fear of terrorist attacks. Japan Air Lines reduced its trans-polar flights by as much as 30% due to reduced bookings. British Airways has canceled all of its four European flights per week until at least March.

Northern Region Leads Annual Growth

The addition of 450 mining jobs and 150 service jobs continues to give the Northern region the largest over-the-year employment gains in the state. (See Table 2.) Transportation, communications and utilities companies added another 100 jobs, while most other industries held steady over the year. These new jobs helped push the region's employment up 5.5% compared to last year.

Anchorage also showed the typical January pattern of employment: down when compared to December's seasonally inflated employment figures. As would be expected, most losses occurred in trade as temporary workers were released from their jobs. Significant declines also occurred in the construction industry, as 1990 projects were completed. Many of these lost jobs were probably outside of the municipality's boundary, since many Anchorage contractors have projects statewide.

The seasonal decline in University of Alaska employment was the driving force in the reduction of government employment over the month in Anchorage. State government employment over the year has, in contrast to the monthly data, increased by 5.7% or 400 jobs. This is the strongest growth in state government recorded in any region.

Fairbanks employment shrank in most industries when compared to December, but is enjoying over-the-year growth. The borough saw over 900 more jobs this January than last, led by increases in transportation and trade. The trade growth is particularly impressive, since January 1990 was the last month Nordstrom's retail store operated in Fairbanks. Growth in this industry means that more jobs were created over the last year than were lost by the Nordstrom closure. Comparisons

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	1/90	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	1/90	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	1/90
Mining	$1,259.18	$1,164.03	$1,032.12	51.5	48.3	44.7	$24.45	$24.10	$23.09
Construction	960.78	1,005.95	966.42	42.4	43.1	41.3	22.66	23.34	23.40
Manufacturing	489.14	487.12	500.94	41.7	37.1	41.4	11.73	13.13	12.10
Seafood Processing	413.88	332.70	407.10	47.3	36.4	46.0	8.75	9.14	8.85
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	580.72	633.19	583.25	34.0	36.1	34.8	17.08	17.54	16.76
Trade	342.99	368.68	332.76	33.3	33.7	30.5	10.30	10.94	10.91
Wholesale	584.78	591.84	544.45	39.7	41.1	38.1	14.73	14.40	14.29
Retail	291.88	321.96	289.29	31.9	32.1	28.9	9.15	10.03	10.01
Finance-Ins. & R.E	391.44	416.80	399.25	33.6	35.9	34.3	11.65	12.61	11.64

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: March 1990

Averages are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

of February trade employment should show even stronger growth than in January.

Along with Anchorage, Fairbanks posted gains in state government employment over the year. No other region of the state saw state government employment rise. For the state as a whole, state government employment was stable over the year.

Southeast Growth Lags

Lower state government employment levels and a weak timber market combined to give Southeast the lowest over-the-year growth rate of any region. The 0.8% increase in employment occurred mainly due to increased federal and local government employment. Over-the-year increases in federal employment will not be seen for much longer. A large number of workers were employed in February and March of last year to conduct the 1990 census. Over the next few months, the inflated federal employment figures of last year should cause over the year employment declines in federal government. No other industries came to the rescue of the area's economy, with most posting losses over-the-month and only small over-the-year gains.

Weakness in the region's economy was also reflected in the unemployment rates. While the statewide rate increased 1.3 percentage points between December and January, Southeast saw its rate increase by 2.7 points, rising from 8.6% to 11.3%. Every region except one saw its unemployment rate increase over the year: the Northern region's strong over-the-year growth helped to push its unemployment rate down to 7.9%, one of the lowest rates in Alaska in January.

Summary: Lots of Plans, Only a Little Action (For Now)

Declining employment levels when compared to December came as no surprise to most economy watchers. The state's recent trend of strong growth seems to be continuing, with January employment levels higher than those of a year ago. Not all areas of the state are sharing equally in this growth. The Northern region is by far the leader in growth, while Anchorage and Fairbanks continue to pick up steam. Southeast, which had one of the strongest economies in the state, has fallen to the back of the pack in the last several months.

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Table • 4

Labor Force By Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	1/90	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	1/90	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	1/90	p/ 1/91	r/ 12/90	1/90
Alaska Statewide	250,629	253,756	247,995	22,032	19,116	20,738	8.8%	7.5%	8.4%	228,597	234,640	227,257
Anch.-MatSu Region	133,372	135,077	130,845	9,377	8,300	9,028	7.0	6.1	6.9	123,995	126,777	121,817
Municipality of Anchorage	117,203	119,059	115,701	7,145	6,398	6,745	6.1	5.4	5.8	110,058	112,661	108,956
MatSu Borough	16,169	16,018	15,144	2,232	1,902	2,283	13.8	11.9	15.1	13,937	14,116	12,861
Gulf Coast Region	27,390	27,707	27,682	3,434	3,143	3,422	12.5	11.3	12.4	23,956	24,564	24,260
Kenai Peninsula Borough	17,250	17,178	17,354	2,572	2,127	2,489	14.9	12.4	14.3	14,678	15,051	14,865
Kodiak Island Borough	5,880	6,274	5,974	287	539	310	4.9	8.6	5.2	5,593	5,735	5,664
Valdez-Cordova	4,260	4,255	4,354	575	477	623	13.5	11.2	14.3	3,685	3,778	3,731
Interior Region	34,790	35,504	34,705	3,960	3,468	3,810	11.4	9.8	11.0	30,830	32,036	30,895
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	29,917	30,576	29,796	3,185	2,798	3,008	10.6	9.2	10.1	26,732	27,778	26,788
Southeast Fairbanks	2,052	2,070	2,043	344	295	331	16.8	14.3	16.2	1,708	1,775	1,712
Yukon-Koyukuk	2,821	2,858	2,866	431	375	471	15.3	13.1	16.4	2,390	2,483	2,395
Northern Region	7,927	8,155	7,916	630	551	691	7.9	6.8	8.7	7,297	7,604	7,225
Nome	2,947	3,046	2,936	278	264	293	9.4	8.7	10.0	2,669	2,782	2,643
North Slope Borough	2,895	2,974	2,871	135	98	138	4.7	3.3	4.8	2,760	2,876	2,733
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,085	2,135	2,109	217	189	260	10.4	8.9	12.3	1,868	1,946	1,849
Southeast Region	34,682	34,640	34,473	3,926	2,972	3,180	11.3	8.6	9.2	30,756	31,668	31,293
Haines Borough	859	854	849	128	101	105	14.9	11.8	12.4	731	753	744
Juneau Borough	14,948	15,162	14,978	1,039	840	826	7.0	5.5	5.5	13,909	14,322	14,152
Ketchikan Gateway Bor.	6,677	6,567	6,512	977	698	713	14.6	10.6	10.9	5,700	5,869	5,799
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketch.	2,802	2,679	2,766	534	344	458	19.1	12.8	16.6	2,268	2,335	2,308
Sitka Borough	3,957	4,017	3,935	334	287	249	8.4	7.1	6.3	3,623	3,730	3,686
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	1,801	1,738	1,806	385	280	365	21.4	16.1	20.2	1,416	1,458	1,441
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,638	3,623	3,627	529	422	464	14.5	11.6	12.8	3,109	3,201	3,163
Southwest Region	12,468	12,673	12,374	705	682	607	5.7	5.4	4.9	11,763	11,991	11,767
Aleutians East Borough	866	883	880	5	5	19	0.6	0.6	2.2	861	878	861
Aleutians West	2,435	2,481	2,446	23	22	33	0.9	0.9	1.3	2,412	2,459	2,413
Bethel	4,830	4,903	4,701	371	358	241	7.7	7.3	5.1	4,459	4,545	4,460
Bristol Bay Borough	500	498	480	45	34	25	9.0	6.8	5.2	455	464	455
Dillingham	2,244	2,285	2,289	114	114	158	5.1	5.0	6.9	2,130	2,171	2,131
Wade Hampton	1,593	1,623	1,578	147	149	131	9.2	9.2	8.3	1,446	1,474	1,447

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: March 1990

- Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey in formulas used to allocate federal funds.
- Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.
- The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.
- The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment tables.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Alaska Economic Regions